

# WEEKLY COURIER.

C. DOANE, Publisher.

JASPER, INDIANA

## ITEMS OF INTEREST.

### Personal and Literary.

—Wilkie Collins has been turning his novel "Armada" into a play.

—Mr. N. Bishop, the paper canoe voyager, has arrived at St. Mary's, Fla.

—O. O. Staley edits a column of items in the Louisville Courier-Journal. "What's in a name?"

—Two of Rachel's sisters are living in Paris—the one a maker of perfumes, and the other an actress of no striking abilities.

—"London," "The Devil," and "Oriental Religion" are the subjects upon which M. D. Conway is to lecture next fall.

—"Texas Jack" advertises in the London Field, offering his services as guide to foreign gentlemen visiting the American plains.

—"Poker" John, a sportive Pinte, has cleaned his brethren out of all their Government supplies, and has a corner on blankets, pantaloons, coats, and food.

—The Grand Duke of Mecklenburg-Schwerin is writing a book on the Franco-Prussian war of 1870-71, which is more especially devoted to the events in which his division took an active part.

—A granite boulder from the Kearsarge Mountain is to be erected over the grave of Admiral Wilson, in Mount Auburn Cemetery, which will be emblematically fashioned to commemorate the ship and peak he rendered famous.

—Judge Clinton, of Buffalo, N. Y., has lately come into possession of a pair of silver vases which were presented to Governor DeWitt Clinton, by the merchants of New York in 1826, in testimony of his services in building the Erie Canal.

—Baroness Burdette-Countess, the eminent English philanthropist, has taken steps to form a society for the prevention of cruelty to humming-birds, asserting that thousands are annually slaughtered simply to gratify woman's vanity as displayed upon bonnets.

—Mr. and Mrs. David Williams, settled full of youth, health and hope, in the wilderness south of Syracuse, N. Y., eighty-one years ago. They are still living in the town of Pompey, enjoying health and comfort in the old home-tied with their son, who is past seventy.

—The Rev. Mr. Warren, a Baptist pastor at Burnt Hills, Saratoga County, N. Y., was exposed several weeks ago as the husband of three living and undivorced wives. He resigned at the request of his congregation, and wanted to preach a farewell sermon, but they would not hear it.

—The first appearance of Adelaide Ristori on the stage was when she was only two months old, she being carried on in a basket as a New-Year's gift. At the age of four she began to appear in child parts; but not until after she was sixteen did she have the advantage of any intelligent classical training. Before she had discovered that her real genius lay in tragedy she had acquired considerable reputation in comedy, but her fame was then confined to Italy.

### Science and Industry.

—A type-composing machine is used to "set up" the new edition of the "Encyclopaedia Britannica."

—A busy season is anticipated in fitting out sperm whalers in New England this spring, stimulated by the small stock of oil on hand and the high price which it commands.

—There are in the United States 156 firms and corporations engaged in the manufacture of silks, with an aggregate capital of \$10,000,000, and a force of 10,651 operatives. New York has 61 of these establishments; New Jersey, 30; Connecticut 24, and Massachusetts, 12.

—The copper industry promises to be prosperous this year. The price is remunerative, and the stock on hand no greater than last year, when it was 10,000,000 pounds. All that is not needed at home can be exported to Europe, which received most of the 9,000,000 pounds exported last year.

—The Newburyport men do a large business in catching frogs for the Boston market, and they have several thousand now being tanned. They get fifty cents a dozen for them, and the demand is always greater than the supply. Over 3,000,000 frogs were sold in the Boston market last season, and the demand is constantly increasing.

—The science of medicine and surgery, according to European notions, is making some progress in Japan. We learn that in the hospital of Hakodadi there are twenty young men regularly entered as students of medicine, daily lectures are given, and "bedside and other clinical demonstrations," the curriculum being similar to that of most medical schools.

—An illustrated medical journal, in the Japanese language, is also published every two months.

—A simple but valuable addition to the astronomical scale has been devised by Captain J. E. Davis, of the Hydrographic Department of the British Admiralty. By the application of a micrometer-wheel to the tangent-screw and movable indicators to the arc, a series of observations can be made of a heavenly body without the necessity of reading the angle at the time, or removing the eye from the telescope. The micrometer can be thrown out of gear at pleasure, and the sextant used without it.

### School and Church.

—18,000 persons assembled in and around Agricultural Hall, Islington, London, to hear and see Messrs. Moody and Sankey.

—Religious disturbances have broken out in Buenos Ayres. The Archbishop's palace has been sacked, and the house of the Jesuits burned.

—The English revisers of the authorized version of the New Testament have completed their second revision to the end of the 13th chapter of St. John.

—The Methodist Church added last year 365 parsonages to its number—equal to one for every day of the year. It has now 4,389 clergymen's homes, valued at \$6,469,170.

—The average pay of male teachers in

Colorado is \$62 per month. Female teachers receive \$51. The amount expended for school purposes during the year 1874 was \$141,374.37.

—Forty-four students of one of the chief Evangelical divinity schools in the United States, and thirty-eight in another, have recently sent word to the American Unitarian Association that they will gratefully accept and read the works of Channing.

—In 1873 Prussia contained 1,073 monks and 8,011 nuns. In the diocese of Cologne the numbers increased between 1850 and 1872 from 272 to 3,131; in Breslau, from 227 to 1,458; in Posen, from 10 to 337, and in Kuhl, from 8 to 191.

—A telegram to the London Times from St. Petersburg, says that forty-five parishes of the Bishopric of Siedletz, Poland, containing 50,000 inhabitants, with the whole of their clergy, have joined the Greek Orthodox Church. The public reception was presided over by the Archbishop of Warsaw.

—The ceremony of canonizing Maria Christina of Savoy, the mother of King Francis II. of Naples, will be completed within two months. The expenses of the canonization are borne entirely by the new saint's sister, the Empress Marieanne of Austria. The Cardinal Archbishop of Naples is conducting the sacred ceremony.

—One hundred graduates and 600 undergraduates have been sent out from the Maine State Normal School at Castine during the seven years of its existence. All of these have found work in the schools of the State. Every pupil in this Normal school is required to conduct the recitations of his class from time to time, to give practice in teaching.

—At a meeting of students of the University at Madison, Wis., on the 18th, Messrs. J. W. Hiner, H. M. Remington, R. B. Dodgeon, S. S. Richie, and Miss L. S. Clark were elected to write and deliver orations at some future date, the one having the best oration to represent the University in next year's inter-collegiate contest for that State. The home contest will take place next fall.

### Haps and Mishaps.

—In a quarrel between two men in Nelson County, Ky., a few days since, Sam. Hahn cut Merritt Lepiere with a knife, when Lepiere took up a spade and split Hahn's head open, killing him instantly.

—William Donahue, an employee at Johnson's camp on the Chippewa River, Mich., was instantly killed a few days since by a falling tree, which crushed in his skull. Deceased resided at Burnt Rapids, Ont.

—At Kalamazoo, Mich., one morning recently, Mrs. Wheeler left her house on Ransom Street to go to a neighbor's for a bar of soap. While absent the clothes of her little girl caught fire from the stove, and the child was fatally burned.

—Mary McGlain, a girl aged 10 years, living in Ann Arbor, Mich., while playing with some matches the other day, accidentally fired her clothing, and, in her fright, rushed down stairs, thereby fanning the flames until they were beyond control. She was terribly burned, and died in great suffering.

—A man, somewhat intoxicated, lay down the other evening in a bowling saloon in Ellis County, Texas, stretched his body across an alley and went to sleep. A bystander amused himself by bowling heavy balls at his prostrate figure. Three struck him—one on the feet, another on a hip, and the third on the head. On trying to wake the sleeper shortly afterwards it was found that he was dead.

—A farmer named John Williamson, who resided near Keokuk, Iowa, undertook, in company with his son and his two grandchildren, named Frank and Maggie Maxwell, aged respectively 15 and 17 years, to cross Sugar Creek on a two-horse wagon. The stream was very much swollen, and floating ice was running thick and fast. When about half way across the horses, wagon and occupants were swept rapidly down stream by the current. The son managed to swim ashore and escape, but Mr. Williamson and his grandchildren were all drowned.

### Foreign Notes.

—A French writer ascribes the prevailing vine disease in that country to the scarcity of small birds.

—A veritable Cyclops is reported to be in London. His only eye is in the middle of his forehead. His name is Piper Wilson, aged 22, and he came from Australia.

—The recent report of an attempt to assassinate King Alfonso is contradicted as utterly without foundation. The person who started it is known, and has been arrested in Spain.

—The accumulation of specie in the Bank of France has reached the enormous sum of 1,300,000,000 francs, or near \$270,000,000.

—In Kent, England, the British gentleman is in distress for want of foxes to hunt. His game is the victim of the steel-traps and strychnine of the small farmers.

—A man in a Paris hospital was lately transformed into a goat, screaming for grass and butting with his head, by means of transfusion of blood from one of those animals.

—It was stated the other day in the British Parliament by Sir H. James that the debt owing by bankrupt foreign States amounts to no less than £240,000,000, of which the greater part—almost all—is held in England.

—The installation of the Prince of Wales as Grand Master of the Freemasons will take place at the Albert Hall on Wednesday, April 28. It is expected that about 7,000 or 8,000 Masons will be present at the ceremony.

—The Court Journal asserts that the arctic regions, especially Iceland and Northern Norway, will be the fashionable resort during the coming summer. It is expected the Prince of Wales will venture across the charmed circle of ice and snow.

—The London Athenaeum states that Mr. George Smith has discovered among the Assyrian tablets in the British Museum the legend of the building of the Tower of Babel. The discovery is quite as important as that of the tablet relating to the Deluge, made known last year by the same gentleman.

—Panama Bay has been unusually phosphorescent during the past month. At night, it is said by local newspapers, every wave as it breaks on shore and reefs looks like a wreath of bluish fire. The star-like light thus given out announces the presence of myriads of the

oceanic animalcules with which the sea abounds at this season.

### Odd and Ends.

[From the Detroit Free Press.]

—A Virginia photographer can take photographs in the night. He took 150 from a brother artist, and was then taken to jail.

—Some of the colored folks of Cleveland thought civil rights meant free rides on the street cars, and they had to be stood on their heads and argued with.

—Speaking of strikes—it looks as if the painters were about to have a brush, don't it?—N. Y. Commercial Advertiser. Yes, that's patty good.

—The season has now arrived when the husband who finds buttons off his shirt should make known his purpose to go to the Black Hills. It will act like a charm.

—The first American steamer that ever made a voyage on the Nile is reported as having recently started for the first cataraet. It is a small yacht owned by some American tourists.

—If you want to know what the free American people think of the last Congress just stand around the Detroit Post-office and hear the mild remarks of the man who pays six cents to send a two cent package.

—I like to hear a man indulge in a hearty laugh," says the Rev. Collyer. So do we, in case it's some other man who suddenly sits down on the sidewalk. When it isn't "some other man" we despise hearty laughter.

—The Enterprise, at Cave Spring, Georgia, asserts that that place has the most courteous deputy sheriff in America, but you ought to see the Detroit officer who carries extra watch keys, a corkscrew, spare lead pencils, a penknife, always has a dollar to lend, gives away tobacco and goes security on notes.

—Justice Potter had a walk of nearly two miles the other evening to perform a marriage ceremony, and when he had finished it the groom crowded a dollar bill into his hand and said: "Never mind any thing back. She's a bang-up girl, got a house and lot, and I haint going to look at two shillings at such a time as this!"

—At the City-hall Market yesterday a pale-faced, solemn man took off his hat, smoothed back his hair and said: "My friends, we know not how soon we may fall by the wayside. We stand here to-day—next week may sleep with the dead. I feel that I have only a few days more to stay, and I wish some of you would lend me fifteen cents so that I can get a dish of baked beans." The crowd at once moved away.

—A boy about twelve years old, knocked at door of a house on Second Street yesterday, and when the lady appeared, said: "There'll be a boy round here pretty soon to clean your walk, but don't give him the job. His name's Jim; he's cross-eyed, and blows up cats with powder-snaps. I'll be here with my partner pretty soon. We go to Sunday-school, never sass our mothers, and we're going to give half the money to the grasshopper-sufferers." The job was saved for him.

### Survey of Costa Rica.

Several years ago, Prof. Gabb accepted an invitation from the Government of Costa Rica to take charge of an investigation into the resources of that country. He has since been actively engaged in the prosecution of the work in the regions bordering on the Atlantic slope. His last report announces the completion of the geological and ethnological survey of the district of Talamanca. Prof. Gabb has, with four assistants, besides Indian laborers, carefully examined a tract of about 3,000 square miles, extending from the borders of civilization on the north to the boundaries of Panama on the south, and from the Atlantic to the crest of the Cordilleras, and has mapped its entire extent with more accuracy than has marked the delineation of any other equal area of Costa Rica, not excepting the most populous. His report of this district gives a body of most worthy statistics regarding an agricultural country sufficiently large, fertile and healthful, to support the entire population of Costa Rica; and yet this region is inhabited by only 1,226 Indians and twelve foreigners, of whom but one is white. It is watered by a river navigable the year round, and reaching to within 30 miles of the most remote portion of the country. In addition to the statistics of the survey proper, Prof. Gabb has gathered information regarding the mineral resources of the region, and its animal and vegetable life. Immense collections have been forwarded by him to the Smithsonian Institution, for identification. Among these are 100 specimens of monkeys, with individuals of other mammals, birds, etc., in proportion. The exhaustive inquiries into the ethnology of the country have resulted in rich collections, likewise sent to Washington. Numerous vocabularies, with several dialects, have been obtained that promise much to the philologist.

### The Man Who Saw the Flood.

The Popular Science Monthly says the indications are that the primeval man of Europe and his descendants were of short stature. The popular notion that the present generation is physically weaker and smaller than the primitive or ancient, is not only utterly unfounded, but there is abundant evidence that the reverse is true. Most of us would be amazed if not shocked at a true and life-sized portrait of the real Eve, "Mother of all the living." We often hear, indeed, of giants' bones here and there dug up, but intelligent examination invariably proves them to have belonged to the mammoth or some other animal. A singular blunder of the kind shows the real value of such reputed discoveries. Years ago, a skeleton was dug from the calcareous shale at Oeningen, which the veteran savant Schuechler confidently christened "Homo diluvii testis"—the man who saw the flood. Casts of it were made for various museums, and, in full faith in the legitimacy of the name, one Deacon Muller was moved to write some pious and edifying lines about it. Unfortunately, the first competent study of the skeleton proved it to be that—not of an ancient sinner, but of a large salamander, closely resembling the giant salamander of Japan. Yet, to this day, every casually unearthed petrification, found no matter where, or in what relations, is to many a memorial of the Noachian deluge. Thus, theories which science has long ago refuted and dismissed from further consideration, are persistently held fast and affirmed.

### THE BLACK HILLS.

Interesting Letter from Gen. Sheridan to Gen. Sherman—"All that Glitters is not Gold."

Lieutenant-General Sheridan has written the following highly interesting letter concerning the Black Hills country. It sets forth what has been done, and what the Government proposes to do in the matter, and immediately concerns all who contemplate going into that country for gold:

HEADQUARTERS MILITARY DIVISION OF THE MISSOURI, CHICAGO, March 25.—General Sherman, Headquarters of the Army, St. Louis, Mo.—General: In reply to your question, What do you know of the Black Hills? I respectfully submit the following remarks: My first knowledge of the Black Hills was derived from an interview with the late Father DeSmet, the noted Catholic missionary, whom I met many years ago on the Columbia River, in Oregon, from whom I heard the Indian romance of mountains of gold in the Black Hills, and his explanation of that extraordinary and delusive story to Indians, frontiersmen and explorers.

### THE BLACK HILLS COUNTRY

is much more extensive than that particular locality brought to the notice of the public by recent explorations of General Custer, and gets the name from the black, scrubby character of the timber which grows on the sides and tops of the mountains and hills. It comprises the whole of the country bounded on the east by longitude 102 degrees, on the south by the Sweetwater and Laramie Rivers, on the west by the Big Horn and Wind Rivers, and on the north by the Yellowstone River. This is really the country of the Black Hills, but embraced in it are several localities called Black Hills; for instance, the Black Hills of Laramie, Black Hills of Powder River, and Black Hills of Cheyenne River, the latter being the locality in which General Custer made his reconnaissance last summer, and about which there is so much speculation at the present time, and within bounds of which, it is supposed by a large number of people, is to be found gold.

### FATHER DE SMET'S MOUNTAIN OF GOLD STORY

was that while living with the Sioux Indians, he was shown by them some nuggets of gold which they informed him had been obtained at different points in the Black Hills, supposed to be from the beds of the Big Horn, Rosebud and Powder Rivers, and from branches of the Tongue River, and on his representing that such yellow metal was of great value, they told him they knew where there was a mountain of it. Subsequent investigation, however, proved that the Indian mountain of gold was nothing more than a formation of yellow mica, such as may be found in a number of places in the above described country. I had scarcely given the story thought after this until about three years ago, when I happened to be in New York, and it was there brought to my recollection by prominent gentlemen, who asked me where Father De Smet was to be found, and insisted that some one should be sent at once to get from him the secret of the gold mountain, which would pay the national debt, etc. After I had informed him that it was

### AN OLD AND EXPLODED STORY.

his ardor cooled, and excitement about the mountain of gold again subsided. It so happened, however, that the Black Hill country was embraced in my military command, and two years ago it became apparent to me that a military post in the Black Hills of the Cheyenne would soon become necessary for the proper protection of settlements in Nebraska from raids of Sioux warriors, who always, before they commenced depredating on the frontier, secured a safe place for their families and villages in the locality mentioned. Believing these Indians would never make war on our settlement as long as we could threaten their families and villages in this remote locality, abounding in game and all that go to make Indian life comfortable, and with this purely military object in view, the order was given for

### THE CUSTER RECONNOISSANCE.

The party found gold by washing near Harney's Peak, on the eastern slope of the Black Hills. The Black Hills of the Cheyenne, as described by General Custer, are situated between the north and south forks of that river, one of which is known as Belle Fourche, the other as South Fork, and although I have the utmost confidence in the statement of General Custer and General Forsythe of my staff, that gold was found near Harney's Peak, I may safely say there has not been any fair test yet made to determine its existence in any large quantities. There is not a Territory in the West where gold does not exist, but in many of them the quality is limited to the color, which is much as has yet been obtained near Harney's Peak. Geological specimens brought back by the Custer expedition are not favorable indications of the existence of gold in great quantity. But it may be the case. But as the treaty of '69, duly ratified, virtually deeds this portion of the Black Hills to the Sioux Indians, there is no alternative but to

### KEEP OUT TRESPASSERS.

But to go back to the Father De Smet information. There is not much doubt of the correctness of this statement that gold exists in large quantities in Black Hills, but much further west than the Black Hills of the Cheyenne. I have nuggets from Big Horn and Tongue Rivers, and many specimens from near Ft. Stambaugh, in the Upper Wind River country, where mining has failed for want of water for alluvial washing, and from hostilities of the Indians; and I have good reason to believe, in fact, it is quite certain, that gold exists in the Owl Creek Mountains, in Lower Wind River, and in the head waters of Powder River and the Rosebud, all the localities being under general meaning, in the Black Hills, and outside of the Sherman, Augur and Terry treaty of 1869, except so far as the privilege to hunt game. It has been my intention to communicate much information, this coming summer, to the Government on the above country, and as the Indians have no absolute right to sell, there may be but little difficulty in

### EXTINGUISHING THEIR HUNTING PRIVILEGES.

I purpose, if you do not object, to open up the Yellowstone River by sending General George A. Forsythe and Colonel Grant, of my staff, up the Yellowstone to the mouth of Big Horn, as soon as the ice breaks, which will give the lowest tide-

water, having already secured a steamboat to make this exploration. If General Forsythe is successful, I will send General Custer with a command from Fort Lincoln across the mouth of Powder River, thence upon the south bank of the Yellowstone, crossing Powder River, Tongue River, Rosebud, and on to the mouth of Big Horn. This country is as yet entirely unexplored, and the expedition may develop a very valuable auriferous section and make the Father De Smet story to some extent true. But I am of the belief that the mountain of mica has not changed to gold. I will also send an expedition down Wind River, through the Owl Creek Mountain, from Fort Stambaugh via Fort Brown to the mouth of Big Horn, and will bring it back through the parks about the headwaters of Powder River, visited by Captain Mills and his command last summer. These parks are, for beauty, fully equal to those described so graphically by General Custer as existing in the Black Hills of the Cheyenne. I may also say, from my own knowledge, that the valleys of Big and Little Popoagie, Little Wind River and Main Wind River can scarcely be excelled in beauty and fertility, while the student of nature will find there the most extraordinary upheavals of earth-crust probably to be found on this continent. I am of the opinion that this country is gold-bearing, but of its abundance there can only be a conjecture.

At present I feel quite confident of our ability to prevent intended trespasses on the rights of the Indians, and cavalry and infantry in the Department of Dakota are being moved at the present time to the most available points, to carry out my directions of September 3, of last year. Were it not for these precautions on the part of the Government there might be a repetition of the California Gold Beach and Gold Lake humbugs, with still greater sufferings, as many of the persons now

CRAZY TO GO TO THE BLACK HILLS never think of how they are to exist after they get there, or how they could return in case of failure. If they will wait for further information from the Government, which now seems to be desirous of making concessions to meet these new interests, there will be no one more willing than myself to aid in ascertaining their value. So far as the troops are concerned, I will promise vigilance in the present emergency and a conscientious performance of my duty. Should the points from which the miners start be so remote as to make it impossible for our scanty force to watch them, we can occupy the two or three gaps in the Black Hills, and effectually exclude the trespassers.

Very respectfully,  
(Signed,) P. H. SHERIDAN,  
Lieutenant-General Commanding.

### The Vanilla Bean in Mexico.

The vanilla bean grows on a vine which, although growing from the root, is a parasite, as it will grow even cut from the root, for it takes its substance from the tree around which it clings by means of its thousands of fine tendrils. Like all parasites, there are trees which are particularly adapted to its support. They are planted about ten feet apart, in rows, at the foot of small trees which are left in clearing the lands. They begin to bear the third year, and in favorable years give from \$400 to \$1,000 per acre. No cultivation is needed but to cut down the grass and weeds; no plowing or spading being necessary. The bean is often gathered in September and October, but as it is not yet ripe, the vanilla is of inferior quality, and sells for a low price; but if left till the end of November or December it comes to perfection. It is then gathered carefully and spread out in the sun on mats, if the weather be favorable, but if otherwise it is placed in ovens, which processes change the color from a pale green to a deep rich brownish or purple, and at the same time develop the oil which, on pressure, exudes from the bean. They are then packed in blankets while warm, and put into large tin cases to go through a sweating process, again put in the sun and again in the blankets, until they attain the proper color. They are then placed in a dry room upon shelves made of some open material, so that the air can circulate around and under them. This evaporates all the watery part. Four years ago the value here was \$20 to \$70 per 1,000 beans; now they are worth from \$130 to \$180 per 1,000, such has been the increase in the consumption, without a proportionate increase in the cultivation. The people will work only about one hundred days in the year, which provides them with all they need, and as they will do no more there is very little increase in the production of any thing. When the beans are assorted they are tied up neatly in bunches of fifty beans each, and packed in cases of tin holding from 2,000 to 3,000. These tin cases are lined with tinfoil and a ticket put on the lid giving the quality, size, and quantity. Some five or six of these tin cases are put into a neatly made cedar chest, which is sometimes lined with zinc and hermetically sealed so as to prevent moisture from getting to the vanilla in transporting, which would ruin it. These cedar cases are then sewed in mats, and these are covered with a coarse bagging to avoid the dangers of transportation on mules. In this manner all the Mexican vanilla goes to places of sale in Europe and the United States, where it is worth from \$9 to \$20 per pound, the thousand beans weighing from nine to ten pounds. Formerly France was the great market for vanilla, but the enterprise of some of our American merchants has diverted the trade to New York, which is now the great depot of vanilla, and parties from Europe come to New York to buy.—Report of Department of Agriculture.

—The idea that some connection exists between the weather on the earth and the spots on the sun is supported by the numerous series of meteorological observations which have been collected by Mr. Charles Meldrum, of the Island of Mauritius, with special reference to the subject. These observations show that there is a terrestrial rainfall periodicity corresponding with the periodicity of solar spots. There is an increase of rain when the spots occupy the largest area on the sun's surface; and, conversely, when the sun-spot area is the smallest, there is a decrease of rain. Whether changes of temperature upon the earth also correspond with the fluctuations of the sun-spots is yet to be determined.

—Last year 74,000 emigrants from the United States landed at Liverpool.